

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: November 29, 2004

Contact: Vanessa Capobianco
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$26 MILLION INVESTMENT IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Bring Japanese Subsidiary and New Jobs to Region

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Nitta Gelatin USA Inc. will locate its first U.S. gelatin production plant in Cumberland County, creating 21 jobs and an investment of \$26 million at the Cumberland Industrial Center near Fayetteville. Nitta Gelatin USA Inc. will manufacture gelatin for use in food and pharmaceutical products.

“The decision by Nitta Gelatin USA Inc. to open its first U.S. facility in our state shows that North Carolina remains a strong competitor in the global marketplace,” Easley said. “Our investments in workforce development, education and infrastructure continue to reap rewards and enable us to continue to attract foreign investors.”

Nitta Gelatin USA Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nitta Gelatin Inc., which is headquartered in Osaka, Japan. Nitta Gelatin USA Inc. will be a sister company to Toronto-based Cangel Inc., which will change its name to Nitta Gelatin Canada Inc. in January. Nitta Gelatin Inc. has been in business for almost 50 years and is one of the leading gelatin manufacturers in North American and Asia with existing pharmaceutical customers in North Carolina and South Carolina.

The 21 new jobs will be manufacturing positions with an average salary of \$29,000 a year plus benefits. This is above the county’s average salary of \$26,000 a year. The company expects to begin work on the new facility in January and be fully staffed and operational within a year.

“The state’s ability to provide training for the highly skilled workforce needed in the automated gelatin plant was a factor in Nitta Gelatin USA Inc.’s decision to locate in Cumberland County,” said Raymond Merz, company president. Merz said other major factors that led the company to North Carolina were the abundance of raw materials from the state’s large pork industry, a competitive environment in terms of costs-to-do-business, and One North Carolina Fund grant.

Nitta Gelatin USA Inc. is receiving a \$34,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund, as well as local incentives. The One North Carolina Fund helps the state recruit and expand quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the Governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this fund, more than 12,000 jobs and \$1 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166